

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (Amended) A method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records stored in a database of an accession processing system where each accession record includes a plurality of fields], comprising [the steps of]:
 - a) generating a plurality of error [type] definition records, each error definition record including error defining criteria for determining when [one or more fields] a field of a plurality of fields of an accession record of a plurality of accession records [represent] includes [an] a defined error;
 - b) storing the plurality of error [type] definition records in a database [of the accession processing system];
 - c) retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;
 - d) retrieving one of the plurality of error [type] definition records;
 - e) determining whether a field of the plurality of fields of the retrieved accession record includes an error as defined by the error defining criteria [defined] included in [by the one of] the [plurality of] retrieved error [type] definition record[s is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records]; and
 - f) [indicating in a database that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is satisfied] storing an error indicator in a database for each field of the plurality of fields of a retrieved accession record that includes an error as defined by an error defining criteria included in a retrieved error definition record, the error indicator identifying the error definition record, the accession record, and the field.
3. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim 2, wherein each accession record of the plurality of accession records includes [represents] a service request.
4. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim [3] 2, wherein [each accession record includes a field] one of the plurality of fields [indicating the] includes a payor.
5. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim [4] 2, wherein at least one of the plurality of error [type] definition records includes error defining criteria for a field of the plurality of fields that includes a [the] payor [field as part of the criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error].
6. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim [4] 2, wherein the plurality of error [type] definition records includes error defining [define]

criteria for determining when [one or more fields of an accession record represents] a field of a plurality of fields includes one of an internal error, unpriceable error, and unbillable error.

7. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim 4, further comprising [the steps of]:

- g) generating a plurality of error handling records, each error handling record correlated to one of the plurality error defining records and defining a [at least one step for the processing of an error type] an error processing procedure;
- h) storing the plurality of error handling records in a database [of the accession processing system];
- i) retrieving an error indicator [indication that the one of the plurality of accession records has an error type from the indication database];
- j) retrieving one of the plurality of error handling records correlated the error definition record identified by the error indicator [that corresponds to the error type]; and
- k) performing the [step dictated] error processing procedure defined in the retrieved one of the plurality of error handling records.

8. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim 7, wherein [at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes a payor field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type] an error processing procedure varies as a function of [the] a [accession] payor.

9. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim 8, wherein [the at least one step to be performed by the plurality of error handling records] each error processing procedure includes one of automatic matching, manual match, manual, correspondence, outside referral, and hold.

10. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim [9] 7, wherein [at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes an effective date field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type] an error processing procedure varies as a function of the [accession] record creation date.

11. (Amended) A[n accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records], comprising:

- a) a database including a plurality of accession records where each accession record includes a plurality of fields;
- b) [an updatable database including] a plurality of error [type] definition records, each error definition [type] record including error defining criteria for determining when [one or more fields] a field of an accession record [represent] includes [an] a defined error;
- c) means for retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;

- d) means for retrieving one of the plurality of error [type] definition records;
- e) an accession error [indication] indicator database including records that identifying the error definition record, the accession record, and the field [indicate the error types determined to exist in at least one of the plurality of accession records];
- f) means for determining whether a field of the plurality of fields of the retrieved accession record includes an error as defined by the error defining criteria [defined] included in [by the one of] the [plurality of] retrieved error [type] definition record[s is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records]; and
- g) means for [updating the] storing an accession error [indication database] indicator record to indicate [that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is satisfied] for each field of the plurality of fields of a retrieved accession record that includes an error as defined by an error defining criteria included in a retrieved error definition record, the error indicator identifying the error definition record, the accession record, and the field.

12. (Amended) The [accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records] of claim [9] 11, wherein each accession record of the plurality of accession records includes [represents] a service request.

13. (Amended) The [accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records] of claim [12] 11, wherein [each accession record includes a field] one of the plurality of fields [indicating the] includes a payor.

14. (Amended) The [accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records] of claim 13, wherein at least one of the plurality of error [type] definition records includes error defining criteria for a field of the plurality of fields that includes a [the] payor [field as part of the criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error].

15. (Amended) The [accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records] of claim 13, wherein the plurality of error [type] definition records includes error defining [define] criteria for determining when [one or more fields of an accession record represents] a field of a plurality of fields includes one of an internal error, unpriceable error, and unbillable error.

16. (Amended) The [accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records] of claim 13, further comprising:

- h) an error handling database including a plurality of error handling records, each error handling record correlated to one of the plurality error defining records and defining a [at least one step for the processing of an error type] an error processing procedure;

- i) means for retrieving an error indicator record [indication that the one of the plurality of accession records has an error type from the accession error indication database];
- j) means for retrieving one of the plurality of error handling records correlated the error definition record identified by the error indicator record [that corresponds to the error type]; and
- k) means for performing the [step dictated] error processing procedure defined in the retrieved one of the plurality of error handling records.

17. (Amended) The [accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records] of claim 16, wherein [at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes a payor field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type] an error processing procedure varies as a function of [the] a [accession] payor.

18. (Amended) The [accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records] of claim 17, wherein [the at least one step to be performed by the plurality of error handling records] each error processing procedure includes one of automatic matching, manual match, manual, correspondence, outside referral, and hold.

19. (Amended) The [accession processing] system [for reducing errors in accession records] of claim 18, wherein [at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes an effective date field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type] an error processing procedure varies as a function of the [accession] record creation date.

20. (Amended) An article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession records stored in a database of an accession processing system where each accession record includes a plurality of fields], the article of manufacture comprising computer readable storage media including program logic embedded therein that causes control circuitry to perform the [steps] acts of:

- a) generating a plurality of error [type] definition records, each error definition record including error defining criteria for determining when [one or more fields] a field of a plurality of fields of an accession record of a plurality of accession records [represent] includes [an] a defined error;
- b) storing the plurality of error [type] definition records in a database [of the accession processing system];
- c) retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;
- d) retrieving one of the plurality of error [type] definition records;
- e) determining whether a field of the plurality of fields of the retrieved accession record includes an error as defined by the error defining criteria [defined] included in [by the one of] the [plurality of] retrieved error [type] definition record[s is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records]; and
- f) [indicating in a database that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is satisfied]

storing an error indicator in a database for each field of the plurality of fields of a retrieved accession record that includes an error as defined by an error defining criteria included in a retrieved error definition record, the error indicator identifying the error definition record, the accession record, and the field.

21. (Amended) The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession records] of claim 20, wherein each accession record of the plurality of accession records includes [represents] a service request.

22. (Amended) The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession] records of claim [21] 20, wherein [each accession record includes a field] one of the plurality of fields [indicating the] includes a payor.

23. (Amended) The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession] records of claim 22, wherein at least one of the plurality of error [type] definition records includes error defining criteria for a field of the plurality of fields that includes a [the] payor [field as part of the criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error].

24. (Amended) The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession] records of claim 22, wherein the plurality of error [type] definition records includes error defining [define] criteria for determining when [one or more fields of an accession record represents] a field of a plurality of fields includes one of an internal error, unpriceable error, and unbillable error.

25. (Amended) The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession] records of claim 22, further performing the steps of:

- g) generating a plurality of error handling records, each error handling record correlated to one of the plurality error defining records and defining a [at least one step for the processing of an error type] an error processing procedure;
- h) storing the plurality of error handling records in a database [of the accession processing system];
- i) retrieving an error indicator [indication that the one of the plurality of accession records has an error type from the indication database];
- j) retrieving one of the plurality of error handling records correlated the error definition record identified by the error indicator [that corresponds to the error type]; and
- k) performing the [step dictated] error processing procedure defined in the retrieved one of the plurality of error handling records.

26. (Amended) The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession] records of claim 25, wherein [at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes a payor field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type] an error processing procedure varies as a function of [the] a [accession] payor.

27. (Amended) The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession] records of claim 26, wherein [the at least one step to be performed by the plurality of error handling records] each error processing procedure includes one of automatic matching, manual match, manual, correspondence, outside referral, and hold.

28. (Amended) The article of manufacture for use in reducing errors [in a plurality of accession] records of claim 27, wherein [at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes an effective date field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type] an error processing procedure varies as a function of the [accession] record creation date.

29. (Amended) A method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records stored in a database of an accession processing system where each accession record includes a plurality of fields], comprising [the steps of]:

- a) retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;
- b) retrieving one of a plurality of error [type] definition records, each error definition record including error defining criteria for determining when [one or more fields] a field of a plurality of fields of an accession record of a plurality of accession records [represent] includes [an] a defined error;
- c) determining whether a field of the plurality of fields of the retrieved accession record includes an error as defined by the error defining criteria [defined] included in [by the one of] the [plurality of] retrieved error [type] definition record[s is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records]; and
- d) [indicating in a database that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is satisfied] storing an error indicator in a database for each field of the plurality of fields of a retrieved accession record that includes an error as defined by an error defining criteria included in a retrieved error definition record, the error indicator identifying the error definition record, the accession record, and the field.

30. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim 2, wherein each accession record of the plurality of accession records includes [represents] a service request.

31. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim [30] 29, wherein [each accession record includes a field] one of the plurality of fields [indicating the] includes a payor.

32. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim [31] 29, wherein at least one of the plurality of error [type] definition records includes error defining criteria for a field of the plurality of fields that includes a [the] payor [field as part of the criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error].

33. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim [32] 29, wherein the plurality of error [type] definition records includes error defining [define] criteria for determining when [one or more fields of an accession record represents] a field of a plurality of fields includes one of an internal error, unpriceable error, and unbillable error.

34. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim 31, further comprising [the steps of]:

- e) retrieving an error indicator [indication that the one of the plurality of accession records has an error type from the indication database];
- f) retrieving one of a plurality of error handling records correlated the error definition record identified by the error indicator [that corresponds to the error type], each error handling record correlated to one of the plurality error defining records and defining a [at least one step for the processing of an error type] an error processing procedure; and
- g) performing the [step dictated] error processing procedure defined in the retrieved one of the plurality of error handling records.

35. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim 34, wherein [at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes a payor field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type] an error processing procedure varies as a function of [the] a [accession] payor.

36. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim 35, wherein [the at least one step to be performed by the plurality of error handling records] each error processing procedure includes one of automatic matching, manual match, manual, correspondence, outside referral, and hold.

37. (Amended) The method [of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records] of claim [36] 34, wherein [at least one of the plurality of error handling records includes an effective date field and the at least one step to be performed for the error type] an error processing procedure varies as a function of the [accession] record creation date.